

# National Service Impact in Wyoming

## AmeriCorps

The Wyoming Coalition Against Sexual Assault is dedicated to building communities where violence against women and children is not tolerated or ignored. The organization works to support and enhance the work of member programs and to provide leadership on issues relating to domestic violence and sexual assault. Fifteen full-time AmeriCorps members provide crisis intervention to adult and child victims, provide financial literacy education, and educate the community to develop a better awareness about domestic violence. In 2013, AmeriCorps members provided services to 594 victims of domestic violence, of which 475 accessed at least one important safety resource and 110 victims attended financial literacy courses.

## AmeriCorps NCCC

AmeriCorps NCCC efforts have helped Wyoming State Parks provide excellent recreational and historic opportunities for Wyoming residents and visitors. AmeriCorps NCCC members' work has included repairing structures, trail building and maintenance, installing benches, preparing campsites, and felling trees. In one instance, an AmeriCorps NCCC team participated in a tree planting service at the Guernsey State park with local seventh graders, planting over 650 trees. With the benefit of NCCC assistance, Wyoming State Parks staff made progress towards their goal of creating 60 miles of new trail within five years, and benefitted from more free time to prepare for the busy summer season.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

Wyoming Independent Living Resources (WILR) is dedicated to the philosophy that every person, regardless of disability, deserves to experience dignity, safety, health and personal independence. In a partnership with AmeriCorps VISTA, WILR has embarked on building a sturdy framework to support a robust community volunteer program that will ultimately result in more consumers accessing information and referral, advocacy, peer support, and independent living skills services. AmeriCorps VISTA members are involved with the development of volunteer management and program evaluation materials, "Living Well with a Disability" volunteer training events, a consumer resource guide, a new database, and expanded community partnerships—all sustainable resources that will support Wyoming consumers.

## Senior Corps

The statewide Wyoming Senior Companion Program, sponsored by Wyoming Senior Citizens, Inc., aided and empowered more than 700 geographically and socially-isolated older adults in Wyoming last year to live happy, healthy, and independent lives. These volunteers provide respite to family members, encourage clients to maintain relationships with friends and family, focus clients on their nutritional health, help clients build and maintain independent living skills, and bring the outside world into the homes of shut in clients. Following the loss of her beloved husband, one client remarked, "I am on a fixed income and just learning to drive. My companion is a lifesaver to me since I don't have a social circle now."